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Time to Put the Intelligence Work In Its Proper Perspective

SENATE Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Montana is sounding a theme that makes sense when he speaks out for a Central Intelligence Agency that operates more anonymously than the present agency has.

This country has been unique in the way that it makes national figures out of the men who lead up intelligence agencies in the federal government. If there is any reason for having separate agencies in an age when everyone knows that Russia and the U. S. have the power to obliterate each other, it is that they should operate in a serious way.

But this country has always insisted that they be operated as if they are directed by Follies and Allen Dulles and J. Edgar Hoover would be recognized by the average American as quickly as Frank Gable. Hoover, particularly, has re-

sorted to elaborate public relations devices to build an image of himself as the master spy and master cop. To help in this building process he has cavorted through the night clubs and race tracks with such gossip peddlers as Walter Winchell and such public figures as Joe McCarthy.

His public relations program has been so effective that there isn't a member of Congress today who dares to dispute him. And the John Birch crowd proclaims him as virtually the only American in public life who can be trusted.

It's about time for our intelligence agencies to be put in their proper perspective, as they are in other countries. It's time to stop thinking of intelligence operations as though they were something produced and directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

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